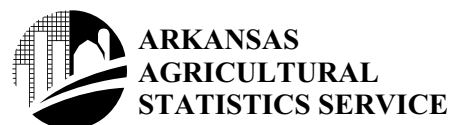


ARKANSAS BROILER HATCHERY



Released: April 28, 2004

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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ARKANSAS CHICK PLACEMENTS DOWN 1 PERCENT FROM LAST YEAR

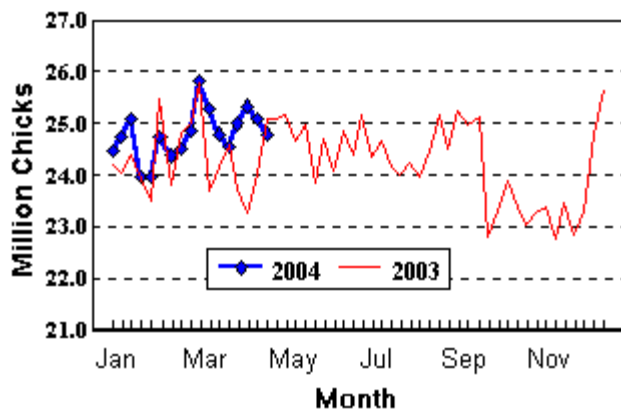
Broiler-type **chicks placed** for meat production in Arkansas was 24.8 million during the week ending April 24, 2004. Placements were down 1 percent from both the comparable week in 2003, and from the revised previous week, and included 2.3 million chicks shipped in from other states. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through April 24, 2004 were 421.8 million, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.

The broiler-type **chicks hatched** for the week was 26.0 million, up 2 percent from the corresponding week a year earlier, and up 1 percent from the previous week. Of the total hatch, 3.2 million chicks were shipped out of the state. Average hatchability for chicks hatched was 82.8 percent.

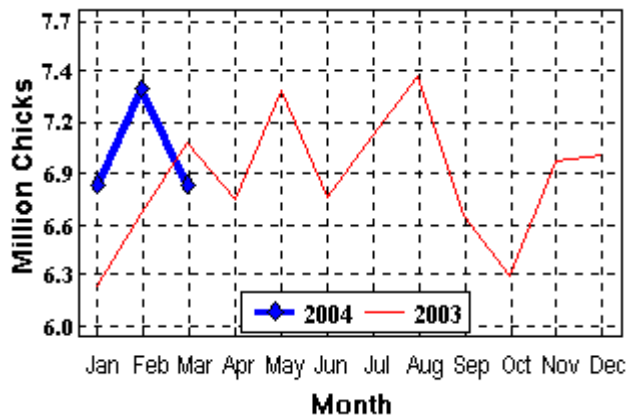
Arkansas hatcheries **set** 31.9 million broiler-type eggs during the week ending April 24, 2004, up 3 percent from the same period last year, and up slightly from the previous week.

Leading breeders in the **UNITED STATES** placed 6.8 million **broiler-type pullet chicks** for future domestic hatchery supply flocks during March 2004, down 3 percent from March 2003.

ARKANSAS BROILER CHICK PLACEMENTS
BY WEEK, 2003- 2004



U.S. BROILER-TYPE PULLET CHICKS PLACED
FOR DOMESTIC HATCHERY SUPPLY FLOCKS



NET PLACEMENTS IN ARKANSAS

Week Ending	Year		% Change
	2003	2004	
	1,000		
Mar. 20	24,175	24,832	103
Mar. 27	24,592	24,554	100
Apr. 3	23,750	25,018	105
Apr. 10	23,255	25,371	109
Apr. 17	24,054	25,120	104
Apr. 24	25,096	24,815	99

U.S. PULLET CHICKS PLACED

Month	Year		% Change
	2002-2003	2003-2004	
	1,000		
Oct.	6,265	6,312	104
Nov.	6,938	6,946	100
Dec.	6,475	6,978	108
Jan.	6,269	6,811	109
Feb.	6,659	7,340	110
Mar.	7,038	6,815	97

BROILER/EGGS SET AND CHICKS PLACED IN 19 MAJOR STATES BY WEEKS, 2004

STATE	EGGS SET (in Thousands)					CHICKS PLACED (in Thousands)						
	Week Ending				1/ %	Week Ending						1/ %
	03-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr		20-Mar	27-Mar	03-Apr	10-Apr	17-Apr	24-Apr	
Alabama	30,610 *	30,392	30,883	30,956	109	22,282	21,787	21,846	21,649	21,798	21,935	105
ARKANSAS	31,453	31,786	31,899	31,945	103	24,832	24,554	25,018	25,371	25,120 *	24,815	99
Delaware	3,738	3,833	3,648 *	3,834	106	5,372	4,928	4,750	4,890	4,959 *	4,938	84
Florida	1,343	1,339	1,345	1,342	78	1,622	1,507	1,540	1,494	1,502	1,416	70
Georgia	32,159	33,220 *	33,291	33,174	104	26,135	25,683	26,963	25,506 *	26,269 *	26,173	102
Kentucky	7,341 *	6,723 *	7,193 *	6,898	105	5,632	5,760	5,801	5,751 *	5,894 *	5,998	102
Louisiana	3,877	3,966	3,981	3,944	105	3,957	3,870	3,778	4,043	3,430	3,793	104
Maryland	8,908	8,882	8,847	8,921	93	5,099	5,890	5,934	5,436	5,897 *	5,926	106
Mississippi	19,459	19,465	19,480	19,371	104	16,357	16,580	16,617	16,600	16,741	17,368	105
N. Carolina	19,156 *	19,277	19,070	18,921	99	14,689	14,615	15,120	15,060	15,076	14,916	101
Oklahoma	6,526	6,720	6,793 *	6,746	104	5,545	5,278	5,033	4,236	5,261 *	5,650	128
Pennsylvania	3,793	3,884	3,861	3,946	108	2,778	2,856	2,776	2,784	2,626	2,718	103
S. Carolina	3,392	3,783	3,768	3,748	79	4,097	4,714	4,179	4,526	4,367	4,001	93
Texas	15,421	15,359	15,346	15,351	102	12,403	12,413	12,504	12,529	12,666	12,844	103
Virginia	6,662	6,668	6,518	6,529	99	5,685	5,606	5,236	5,668	5,236	5,197	87
CA,MO,IN,WV	17,673 *	17,837	17,861 *	17,842	104	15,298	16,306	16,069	16,255 *	16,308 *	15,380	95
Total 2004	211,511 *	213,134 *	213,784 *	213,468		171,783	172,347	173,164	171,798 *	173,150 *	173,068	
Total 2003	210,077	209,276	208,865	207,999		169,357	169,739	167,995	169,177	168,183	172,080	
%Prev. Year	101	102	102	103		101	102	103	102	103	101	
Approximate Marketing Date 2004.....						08-May	15-May	22-May	29-May	05-Jun	12-Jun	

* Revised. 1/ Current week as percent of the same week last year.

EGGS SET IN 19 SELECTED STATES UP 3 PERCENT

Commercial hatcheries in the 19-state weekly program set 213 million eggs during the week ending April 24, 2004. This was up 3 percent from the eggs set the corresponding week a year earlier. Average hatchability for chicks hatched during the week was 83 percent. Average hatchability is calculated by dividing chicks hatched during the week by eggs set three weeks earlier.

BROILER CHICKS PLACED UP 1 PERCENT

Broiler growers in the 19-state weekly program placed 173 million chicks for meat production during the week ending April 24, 2004. Placements were up 1 percent from the comparable week a year earlier. Cumulative placements from December 28, 2003 through April 24, 2004 were 2.88 billion, up 2 percent from the same period a year earlier.